

Bloomfield Citizen,

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attack.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1904.

DEFEAT ANNEXATION.

Before another issue of the CITIZEN appears the question of annexation to Newark will be settled one way or another at the polls. The town has been in an uproar over the agitation of this matter for the past four weeks. It has disturbed political, social and church relations in the town to an alarming extent, and it is no doubt sincerely hoped that if the annexationists are defeated at the polls that they will let the annexation question rest, in so far as Bloomfield is concerned, until the people of Newark are ready to adopt the Greater Newark scheme that has been talked about so much of late years.

When this present annexation scheme was first broached the CITIZEN assumed a neutral attitude pending the announcement of the reasons why the town should surrender its independence and be annexed to Newark in advance of other places that Newark is more desirous of acquiring.

Mr. David G. Garabrant, as spokesman for the committee of citizens who favored annexation, made a statement before a special meeting of the Board of Trade in which he set forth the reasons that led to the movement in favor of annexation.

In our opinion, and in the opinion of many citizens who have expressed their views through the columns of this paper, and many others who have verbally expressed their opinions, Mr. Garabrant did not present any more valid reasons for annexation now than did those men whose annexation schemes he so vigorously opposed two years ago.

There being no reason for annexation and no prospect of any particular advantage to Bloomfield to accrue from it, and the whole matter having the appearance of the result of a petty quarrel between members of the Town Council and citizen members of a committee of fifteen, the CITIZEN determined to pursue its consistent opposition to annexation.

But aside from any lack of reasons why the people of this town should vote for annexation, there has recently been brought to light some features of this annexation scheme that tend to show that it is not a Bloomfield movement at all, but that corporate and political influences are behind it.

There are upwards of four miles of Morris Canal property in this town, and it is said to be the real factor at the bottom of the annexation movement.

Geographically the annexation of Bloomfield to Newark is ridiculous, and no man laid greater stress on this fact two years ago than did Mr. Garabrant. He exhibited a map before the Legislative Committee at Trenton two years ago showing the relative geographical positions of Newark and Bloomfield. That map did much to aid the Legislative Committee in reaching the conclusion that annexation was not practical and the bill was killed.

Annexation and an Open Sunday.

Are our people ready and willing to open wide the flood-gates of vice and immorality for the purpose of having this town annexed to Newark? For, as everybody knows, there is an open Sunday in that city, and very few attempts are made to enforce the law. Once in awhile we read of an arrest being made for selling drinks on Sunday. There is a slight fine imposed on the offender; he pays it, but still keeps on selling on Sunday. The good people of this town worked hard to secure an ordinance to close the saloons on Sunday, and they succeeded, and now the Lord's day is a very quiet one here. Shall all this good work come to naught, because a few scheming politicians are willing to dispose of their manhood for political gain? Let the people give an emphatic negative to this question at the polls.